



10 NOV 2020

Annie Weston

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File No: DOIA 2021 – 0863

Dear Annie Weston

Thank you for your email on 21 October 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

I applied for border exceptions for other critical workers - for a US Showrunner / Writer / Producer / Director / Actor who with his creative team wanted to film at the minimum a film and a TV series in NZ. Refer Godmother Ltd.

This would have provided 5-6 months of employment for 400+ New Zealanders and was worth \$59 million to the economy. In addition they wanted to portray New Zealand as New Zealand, meaning our country and its culture would have been shown on an international streaming platform from a US perspective.

I was turned down because they do not have unique experience and technical or specialist skills that are not obtainable in NZ.

On what basis does INZ determine that these skills are obtainable in NZ? Please can you cite all sources of information used to make that decision?

Our response

The attached appendix contains guidance available to decision makers to assist assessing critical worker visa applications.

Within this document is a link to an amendment circular No. 2020-31 which is publicly available on the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) website <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/resource-library#t=Policy+Amendment+circular&c=&a=&q=&s=dd&l=20>

Further to this, decision makers rely on immigration instructions to make decisions, specifically instruction H5 which is publicly available on the INZ website <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/#73507.htm>

Immigration officers assess the occupation primarily from the information the employer provided as well as publicly available information. INZ is able to consult with a variety of sources where necessary. However, the onus remains with the employer to provide a complete submission with suitable evidence to demonstrate their claims. This remains the primary information used to assess the application.



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Adam Jones, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at adam.jones@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Hogg
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